

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 194607

71

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 194607

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CASC, BU

SUBJECT: WHEREABOUTS OF JOSEPH DIKOV AKA JOSEPH ZNEPOLSKI

1. DEPARTMENT RECEIVED CALLS ON THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 5 FROM A MAN WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS WILLIAM ISCHIE, A PRIEST OF THE BULGARIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH ON LONGISLAND (516-751-6644). HIS BISHOP, A U.S. CITIZEN VISITING BULGARIA ON A VISAED U.S. PASSPORT, WAS ALLEGEDLY DETAINED AUGUST 4 AT THE AIRPORT IN SOFIA FOR NOT HAVING A BULGARIAN EXIT VISA. ISCHIE SAID THE BISHOP, IDENTIFIED IN HIS U.S. PASSPORT AS JOSEPH DIKOV, IS KNOWN IN BULGARIA AS JOSEPH ZNEPOLSKI. HE WAS IN SOFIA ATTENDING A MEETING OF THE HOLY SYNOD OF HIS CHURCH, WHICH IS LED BY PATRIARCH MAXIM.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO VERIFY THE ABOVE, AND WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY MAKING APPROPRIATE DISCREET INQUIRY ABOUT THE DEPARTURE OF THE BISHOP.

3. DECONTROL ON RECEIPT. HABIB

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: SOFIA
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